

CANINES RUFF IT AT ADORABLE DOGGYTOWN

Dogs socialize at South Shore facility, get pampered at Griffintown grooming spa



ROCHELLE LASH
Hotel Intel

I see tails wagging and noses quivering with excitement. While Montreal’s snowbirds plan their vacations, their pets are making tracks to Adorable Doggytown. I read about Adorable Doggytown in the New Yorkie Tribune. There are two locations: a grooming spa in Griffintown and a spacious boarding facility on the South Shore (with free transportation between them). Doggytown works a bit like

Hairbnb. Each dog gets a private sleep space, and owner Dominique Firetto and his team act as hosts, organizing activities. I asked about deluxe amenities like Petflix or Dog Pérignon, but no way — Doggytown is rather rustic. The boarding facility is in the heart of farming country, and the dogs love ruffing it in the barn and in the large fenced field. You never know who you’ll meet. The guest register lists Very Important Pooches such as Justin Retriever and Bark Wahlberg. Brad Pit Bull has made the scene, but he’s only welcome back if he’s on his best behaviour. Diversity is fundamental to Doggytown’s ethos, and the facility welcomes all breeds and colours. It has hosted a Tibetan terrier, a Rhodesian ridgeback,



Dominique Firetto and some boarders at Adorable Doggytown, a canine country resort on the South Shore. PHOTOS: MARJOLAINE MAILHOT

an Irish wolfhound and a British bulldog. The ultimate in political correctness? Doggytown even accepts cats. **Country resort:** Adorable Doggytown Country Club operates in a former ranch in a pastoral South Shore community. Its exercise program sets it apart from many other boarding places: the canine guests spend hours running and playing freely, in groups. There’s a large enclosed field with a climbing playground, so the dogs can bound over rock gardens, up ramps and through tunnels that approximate some of the obstacles their ancestors encountered in forests and fields. “Even city dogs have a little wild in them,” said Firetto, who lives on the property and is hands-on in managing the kennel. “Their priorities are to socialize, run like crazy and have something to chew. “Dogs are lonely when all they have is a dog walker coming a few times a day. Going to Doggytown means fun, fresh air and new friends. “Dogs don’t care about fancy things,” said Firetto. To that end, the boarders stay in a barn that has been divided into rustic sleeping spaces. Each dog has a 2.6-square-metre “room,” with a pillow for comfort and wood chips to absorb dampness.

“The dogs aren’t crying or howling to get out of their kennels, because they get lots of exercise. We play classical music, and the most important thing is that we also give hugs,” said Firetto. “They’re happy to be outdoors, but they also are missing their owners, and we recognize that.” **Griffintown spa:** Adorable Doggytown’s downtown branch handles grooming and hourly daycare (but not overnight). Treatments include baths, manicures, hairstyling and trims around the bikini, the belly and the paws. Facial care includes the cleansing of eyes, teeth, ears and nose. Signature spa services include the SOS Mouffette (anti-skunk), anti-shedding shampoos and vanilla infusions, which give a pleasant aroma to damp fur. **Backstory:** Firetto is an award-winning dog handler who breeds Siberian huskies. He has extensive experience in show grooming and judging, training and animal welfare. His philosophy focuses on a harmony between the physical and mental well-being of each animal. **The neighbourhood:** St-Jacques-le-Mineur is in a rich agricultural region. Pet owners who come to see Doggytown can also visit the vineyard Domaine St-Jacques (domainest-jacques.com), which is a stop along the Route des Vins, a seasonal food and wine

IF YOU GO

Adorable Doggytown in Griffintown: 514-846-3444, doggytown.ca; 1905 Centre St. Grooming salon. Doggie daycare, \$6 per hour, \$25 for four hours or more. Grooming, \$26.99 to \$69.99. Closed Sun.-Mon. **Adorable Doggytown Country Club:** 514-846-3444, doggytown.ca; St-Jacques-le-Mineur. Prices fluctuate: \$30 to \$40 a day for dogs, \$17 for cats; includes transportation to and from Montreal, private room with heat and A/C, outdoor group exercise for dogs three or four times a day, indoor dog run, doggie treats. BYOF (bring your own food). Open Mon.-Sun. for boarding. Closed to human visitors Sun.-Mon.

route. The farm Au Fil du Vent (aufilduvent.ca) grows grapes, berries, hazelnuts and alpine plants, and sells gourmet products including fruit pâtes, syrups and its signature beverage, verjus.



The climbing playground at Adorable Doggytown provides endless exercise.

WHERE TO STAY

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CALL
514-987-2279



MAINE



VISIT FREEPORT

visitfreeport.com 207-865-1212

Visit us at the Freeport, Maine Train & Information Center
23 Depot St. Freeport, Maine 04032 USA

Experience why we're New England's favorite shopping destination. Located on the shores of Casco Bay, Freeport is world-famous for our hundreds of brand-name outlets and local boutiques housed in charming brick buildings, some dating back as far as the 18th century. In addition to world-class shopping, Freeport offers delectable local cuisine, four-star lodging and a diverse assortment of enjoyable activities for all ages and interests. Rich in history, nature and the arts, you'll come to shop and stay to play.



ONTARIO



GLEN HOUSE RESORT

www.glenhousesort.com

409, 1000 Islands Parkway, Lansdowne, Ontario
1-800-268-4536

Visit The Glen House Resort — Smuggler's Glen Golf Course in the heart of the 1000 Islands and choose from one of our many Stay and Play or Romance Packages, starting at \$167 per person based on double occupancy (+ tax and service). Enjoy our 18 hole championship golf course, onsite spa, casual fine dining, lounge, local Theatre, Boat Cruises and Casino



VERMONT



SMART SUITES

www.smartsuitesburlington.com
1700 Shelburne Rd., So. Burlington, Vt.
Toll free 877-862-6800

Come and enjoy our hospitality. Spring/Summer special: Studio Efficiency at \$110 US/night or a one bedroom suite at \$120 US/night including a deluxe continental breakfast and free WIFI. Mention The Gazette special. Not valid with any other discounts and may not be available on certain week-ends. Rates effective May 1st until November 1st. Take Exit 13 off I-89, left on Rt 7/Shelburne Rd. for 1.5 miles. Same entrance as Holiday Inn Express.



NEW YORK



LEDGE ROCK AT WHITEFACE MOUNTAIN

5078 NYS ROUTE 86
WILMINGTON, NY 12997
WWW.LEDGEROCKATWHITEFACE.COM

Unforgettable and unparalleled views from your balcony and as close as you can get to the majestic Whiteface Olympic Mountain - a view you cannot find in Lake Placid. Bring your camera or drone! Our Adirondack Great Room is perfect for your large function or gathering. Firepits and barbecue grills available for guests use. World class fly-fishing within walking distance.

Hospitality that will make you feel right at home.

FOR RATES AND RESERVATIONS
CALL TOLL FREE 833-4-ROGERS

